

ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

From Where It All Began

... Is Happening Again

No. 109 - Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

November 2021

Enjoy Our Beautiful Town During this Special Holiday Season

Holly Trail Tour, Festival of Lights & Santa on Dec. 4

Orwigsburg's Christmas celebration will get a huge sendoff on Saturday, Dec. 4 when, once again, our beautiful Centre Square comes alive with music, lights, and possibly a visit by Santa Claus.

The evening will continue as residents and visitors are invited to spread the "good news" of this joyous season by taking a self-guided Holly Trail "Night of Lights Tour." The tour will feature five "mystery" homes with exteriors lighted to their fullest as well as a number of designated stops with fun, games, prizes and surprise guests for photo opportunities.

The planning has been spearheaded by the Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association (OBPA) and the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library. Leaders and members of the Orwigsburg Borough, Police Department, Friendship Hose Company, local churches, and individual businesses have all played a major role to present these sights and sounds of the season while mindful of the public's health and safety. Masking and social distancing, when appropriate, are recommended.

Festivities begin on Centre Square

The public is asked to gather "on the square" beginning at 4:30 p.m. Popular musical selections

of the season will be heard as those present are welcomed.

As tradition will have it, Orwigsburg's Lamplighter will officially "light" the Community Christmas Tree and the many lighted shrubs, trees, and lamp posts that adorn the 2-block length of Centre Square, thus kicking off the holiday season.

Santa Claus has received a special invitation to make an early visit to Orwigsburg on this night. Orwigsburg Police and Fire Department will escort the "jolly one" into town and around Centre Square aboard a horse-drawn trolley. The trolley will then be available for free rides downtown, loading at the M & T Bank, Centre Square and N. Warren St.

Holly Trail "Night of Lights Tour"

Immediately after the lighting of Centre Square and the arrival of Santa, residents and visitors are invited to begin their Orwigsburg "Night of Lights Tour" in their own vehicles from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Planned and hosted by the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library, the drive-by tour features five homes with amazing exterior light displays in the greater Orwigsburg area. The tour continues a Holly Trail tradition now in its 39th year. Special attractions and

- Continued on page 2



(Photo Courtesy of Ashley Farr)

2020 NIGHT OF LIGHTS TOUR

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 11 - Veterans Day service at Bicentennial Park, west end of Centre Square; 11 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 20 - Veterans Day Dance, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall. Proceeds aid renovation completion.

Saturday, Dec. 4 - Holly Trail "Night of Lights Tour," sponsored by the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; tickets and tour map available at the Library, 216 W. Independence St.

Saturday, Dec. 4 - Festival of Lights; 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Orwigsburg Centre Square; program, entertainment, and horse-drawn trolley ride.

Christmas Cantatas • Concerts • Bazaars and Christmas Eve Church Services
Throughout the Season; Details in Church Articles

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2021 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

209 N. Warren Street
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www.Orwigsburg.gov

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WATER AND WASTEWATER

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BOROUGH OFFICE

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Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the First and Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Orwigsburg Municipal Building, 209 North Warren Street.

Currently there are no unique COVID-19 precautions in place for public attendance at either of these meetings. The public is urged to exercise masking and social distancing as one's personal needs dictate.

OFFICIAL BOROUGH HOLIDAYS

Orwigsburg Borough offices and services will be closed in observance of the stated holidays in 2021 - New Year's Day, Jan. 1; Presidents Day, Feb. 15; Good Friday, April 2; Memorial Day, May 31; Independence Day, July 5 (observed); Labor Day, Sept. 6; Veterans' Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving, Nov. 25 and 26; Christmas Eve and Day, Dec. 23 and 24 (observed); New Year's Eve and Day, Dec. 30 and 31 (observed).

Festival of Lights Tour

- Continued from Page 1

activities are planned at each stop.

Ticket cost is \$25 per vehicle available now at the Orwigsburg Library, 216 W. Independence St. A map with addresses will be provided. Hours are Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A holiday wreath and basket raffle is going on now through Dec. 4 at the Library.

Tour stops will also include a visit to Santa's Workshop inside the Friendship Hose Company and a drive-thru cookie stop at Kimmels Church. Food Pantry "elf" volunteers will be collecting non-perishable items and donations in front of St. John's UCC.

Holly Jolly Card Game

A Holly Jolly Card Game (similar to a Poker Run) could net one lucky vehicle big bucks! Every vehicle will receive a playing card at each of the five decorated homes. The best Poker hand arriving back to the Library by 9 p.m. Saturday evening will win a "Night of Lights Tour" wreath filled with \$100 worth of PA Lottery tickets.

Want more fun? Planning details are still being finalized, including a "car decorating contest" for vehicle participants. Late-breaking information will be posted on the "Orwigsburg Library Night of Lights" Facebook page.



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Borough Manager's "State of the Borough"

Supply Chain Shortages/Delays Affecting Major Construction Projects

Infrastructure, Paving Items Wrap Up; Holidays Await

The COVID pandemic continues ... and the Borough is operating at the "new normal." We are open daily for business; we now have our meetings fully opened to the public; street, water, sewer work, and other projects in the Borough are progressing.



RANDY MILLER
Borough Manager

The Borough completed a "facelift" of the west side of the Borough Office building, along with chimney and roof repairs. Infrastructure in the Borough - water, sewer, and stormwater - are being coordinated and completed as materials become available.

COVID continues to put a strain on supplies that are needed for projects. Because of supply chain issues, work at the sewer treatment plant is being pushed back. Phase 1 is still awaiting materials before construction can begin. Phase 2 is pushed back, as well, with submittals still coming in for possible changes to equipment and materials to fit the supply chain lead-times. Our maintenance department has completed a major stormwater project and has pre-

pared for and assisted on paving projects that have been completed by the time this issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings* is received. Crews will continue filling potholes in the Borough until cold weather sets in.

The Borough continues working to correct areas involving undersized stormwater restriction, thus allowing for higher capacities. The DEP, PennDOT, and the Schuylkill Conservation District have been notified of planned work. The Borough has submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a \$2.5 million Grant to mitigate flooding issues in the Borough. This includes "long-term" engineering designs and construction of facilities to impede the flow of flood waters.

The culvert on Long Avenue has been removed and repaired. And, as of this writing, the Borough is awaiting the contractor to remove the dilapidated, weather-damaged structure at 119 South Liberty Street. It is anticipated that it will be removed in November.

During these cool days of autumn, Halloween has now passed, and all anticipate Thanksgiving right around the corner. Please, keep an eye out for each of your neighbors, especially the elderly and infirmed. It only takes a few minutes to check-in on them.

- Randy Miller, Borough Manger



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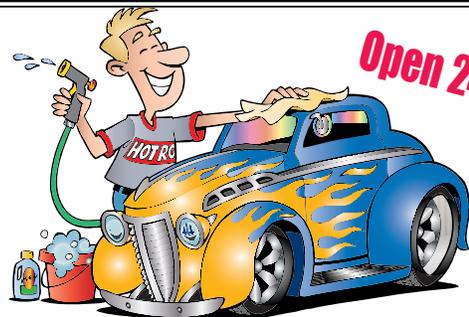
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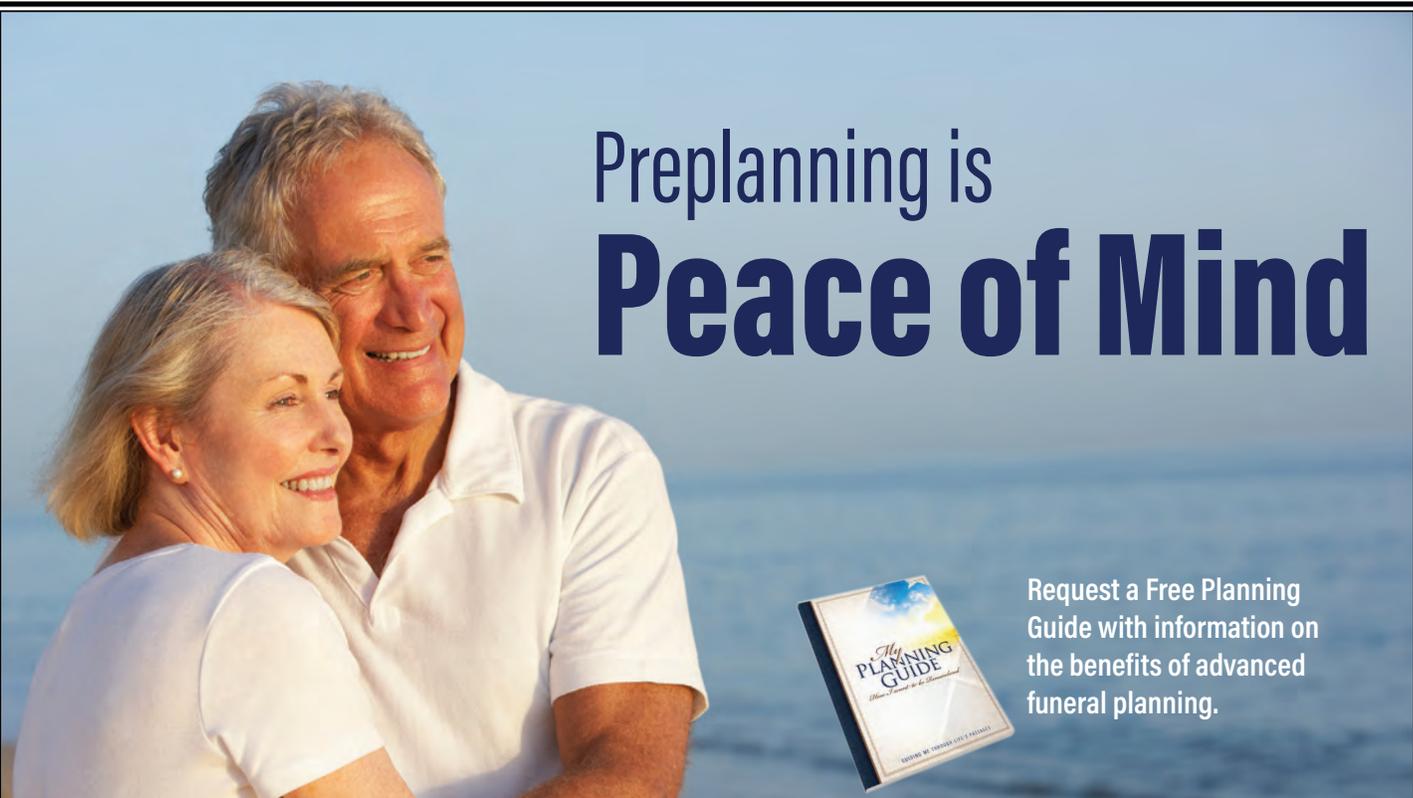
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Council President

Fall, my favorite season.

Temperatures are finally starting to cool down and the days are becoming shorter and shorter. This is the best weather we will encounter all year. Open the windows and let the breeze blow in.

Leaves have turned colors. We are living in a location to best view Mother Nature's artistry. Get out and enjoy the beauty.

Sports fans can enjoy baseball and football at the same time. Many gear up for the Halloween season with many homes and yards decorated with ghosts and goblins. Outdoor activities will slow a bit as the daylight hours begin to dimmish. Yard clean-up is one chore to do before the winter season begins.

There's another activity many of us look forward to during this time - Hunting Season for me! There's nothing like sitting in a deer stand, at the break of dawn with the cold chill in the air, watching and listening for the woods come to life. You sit and reminisce in your mind about all the memories of the hunting years gone by.

Enjoy the fall weather while it lasts. Signs of winter will be knocking at our doorstep soon enough and there will be a foot of snow piled up on your driveway and your car. Unless you're a snowbird moving to Florida for the winter, while reaching for that flannel shirt you might want to dig out your coat, hat, and gloves as well. "GO EAGLES!"

- Rick Bubeck, Council President

State Sen. David Argall

Cleaning Rivers & Creeks

I recently chaired a public hearing in Schuylkill Haven reviewing the ongoing cleanup of the Schuylkill River and other local creeks and streams. At that hearing, we reviewed the fact that the Schuylkill River was once one of the dirtiest, most polluted waterways in the country. Then, a coalition of nonpartisan volunteers, who all shared a vision for a brighter future, stepped forward.



Senator David Argall

The Pennsylvania General Assembly is now considering expanding the "Growing Greener" funding programs to aid small towns to clean local rivers and streams, upgrade local sewer systems, and prevent flooding. As one of the original sponsors of the "Growing Greener" program, I'm proud of the very positive impact it's had.

When Orwigsburg homes were stricken by floods, Rep. Jerry Knowles and I met with Mayor Berger, Borough Manager Miller, and members of the Orwigsburg Borough Council on how state government can help prevent this in the future. Expanding "Growing Greener" funding is one possible answer.

My TV program, The Argall Report, discusses this topic - www.senatorargall.com/argallreport/.



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Christmas decorating contest

The Orwigsburg Business & Professional Assoc. (OBPA) will sponsor an exterior Christmas decorating contest this holiday season.

Open to homes and businesses in Orwigsburg Borough and adjacent townships/communities, registrations must be received no later than Wednesday, Dec. 1. There is a registration fee of \$5 in order to be on the judging list.

Judging will take place on Friday, Dec. 3. Please have lights on no later than 6 p.m. for our judges. Winners will be announced at Festival of Lights on Dec. 4. Prizes of gift cards from OBPA-member restaurants and businesses will be awarded and mailed to the winners. First, second, and third place winners will be named in two categories:

Traditional - lights, garland, wreaths, small scale

Modern - blow-ups, larger scale decorations, light show, etc.

Christmas Decorating Contest Registration Form

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Town/Township: _____

Phone: _____ Traditional Modern

Mail (must be received by Dec. 1) with \$5 cash/check to:

OBPA, 209 N. Warren St., Orwigsburg, PA 17961

5 O'clock Shadows and much more

Members of the Orwigsburg Police Department, Borough Council, and other Borough workers participating in "No Shave November" will be putting down their razors for the month. This annual event raises funds and gift donations for children in need this holiday season.

Toys for Tots collection boxes

Orwigsburg Borough Hall once again will be an official, authorized drop-off location for the Toys for Tots campaign in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps League. Clean, new, and unwrapped toys will be accepted beginning early November through December 15 in the special collection box located at the first floor foyer area at Borough Hall, 209 N. Warren St.

A number of other Orwigsburg area businesses will also have drop-off collection boxes. Look for the Toys for Tots logo on the boxes.

Trash/recycling during the holidays

Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day are trash and recycling holidays, meaning collection days may be altered.

Thanksgiving on Nov. 25 will delay usual Friday collection by one day to Saturday, Nov. 27. Christmas and New Years days both fall on a Saturday this year. Trash/recycling collection will not be affected.



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Veterans Community Memorial Hall

In March of this year, Orwigsburg Borough received the formal grant agreement for the \$750,000 RACP Grant indicating final approval of the grant was imminent, but would await the final signature process by various agencies before funds would be released. Special thanks again to PA State Representative Jerry Knowles who championed the grant.

The Borough and the Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce have worked the past seven months to prepare final documents ready for bid. The signed grant agreement was received June 4, authorizing the project and minimizing any risk to the Borough.

The original intent of the building from its conception in the late 1940s, its dedication in 1950, and its reconstruction through today, continues to be to honor and commemorate the great service of our veterans. The commissioned design work by TMT Design Group for the design and construction amenities to be known as the Veterans Foyer of Honor will be coordinated to ensure the appropriate

recognition of that service.

The design will include the Veterans Honor Board, organized by named conflict, a Veterans Memorial Donor Board to recognize the major contributors to the renovations, initiated in 2005; various veteran murals, a conflict timeline and display cases for veteran and conflict memorabilia to be displayed. Eventually the original Schuylkill County Court House clock, once housed on a chimney tower of the original 1950 Veterans Community Memorial Hall, will be proudly displayed in the Veterans Foyer, following restoration by the Orwigsburg Masonic Lodge.

In addition to the Veterans Foyer, renovation plans for the kitchen in Memorial Hall has been completed by Levkolic Associates.

Considerable effort has gone into finalizing the names for the Veterans Honor Board, coordinating the veterans by conflict, and

clarifying the contributors for the Donors Board. The Veterans List, as received, will be posted for public review and accuracy in a public setting, possibly the Orwigsburg Borough Hall and the Veterans Memorial Community Hall.

Bids will be received and opened on November 3. The Borough has 60 days to award the contract, but it is hoped Borough Council will be able to award the contract at its Nov. 10 meeting. The majority of work may not begin until the spring 2022. Completion is anticipated by October; however, certain construction items (i.e. parking lot light poles) might be delayed due to supply chain shortages.

November at Veterans Memorial Hall

The Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Veterans Breakfast on Nov. 5. Keynote speaker, courtesy of Riverview Bank, was Robert J. Darling, retired Lieutenant Colonel, USMC.

A Veterans Day Dance fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20, beginning at 7 p.m. Live entertainment will be by "The New Individuals." Tickets - \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door - are available at the courtesy desks at Schaeffer's Harley Davidson and Boyer's Food Market in Orwigsburg. Beer, light fare, and entertainment is included. BYOB if desired. Proceeds from this event solely benefits the completion of renovations at the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall.

Local funding still needed

With the probability of post-pandemic price increases, the Taskforce is seeking additional contributions to complete renovations. Send contributions to the Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce, P.O. Box 157, Orwigsburg, PA 17961

THE ORWIGSBURG VETERANS MEMORIAL TASK FORCE
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Orwigsburg Historical Society

Preserving History: Centre Turnpike Mile Markers

At one time Orwigsburg was a transportation thoroughfare, "booming" with a wide variety of bustling businesses and factories. It even served as Schuylkill County's first official seat of government from 1815 until 1851!

Our ancestors would credit this success to human initiative, hard work, and the old Centre Turnpike, which ran right through Orwigsburg. It intersected many other towns, as well; hence the name "Centre Street" in Pottsville.

The Centre Turnpike Company, which built the Centre Turnpike from Reading to Sunbury, was chartered as a private corporation on March 25, 1805. The Turnpike was completed in 1810 and used until 1884, when the company abandoned it due to disrepair.

As the road was planned and built, milestones were ordered from stone cutters and placed exactly one mile apart from each other. These mile markers measured approximately three feet long, one foot wide, and three inches thick, with a top carved into a semi-circle shape. White marble was chosen because it would glisten in the sun and could be seen easily. Toll houses were established every five miles in order to collect specified tolls from weary travelers.

Since the year 2000, the Orwigsburg Historical Society has successfully rescued and/or reset three historical mile markers. Numbers 22 and 25 were res-



MOLINO AREA

cued following much detective work and returned to their rightful locations along Rt. 61. No. 29 was found as a step by the property owner in North Manheim Township. An area resident believes he found the middle section of No.26 along Brick Hill Road, but the top & bottom are still missing.

To date there are still six markers missing in Southern Schuylkill. Perhaps one of these monuments is buried in your back yard or used as a "stepping stone" along a path or leading to a porch. Many markers are difficult to read due to years of weathering, but all were originally engraved with the letter "R" and a number, indicating the number of miles to Reading.

The next time you travel Rt. 61 or when driving along West Market Street on Orwigsburg's western end, see if you can spot one of these pieces of Schuylkill County's history.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for a number of duties at the Historical Society, 109 E. Mifflin St., such as helping to prepare new displays, painting, clean-up, weeding, filing, and events. If interested, please call the society at 570-366-8769 or 570-617-7809. The society is open every Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. and always by appointment.



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Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

Daily Programming Offers Interesting Fun for All Ages

Fall is such an invigorating time of year. The air is crisp, colors are swirling, and children are a whirl with activities and school. The Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library has embraced the excitement of fall by expanding its hours to help ensure access to the Library is convenient for its patrons - Monday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As school is back in session, so are Children's Programs here at the Orwigsburg Library. Miss Robin has Tuesday Storytime at 10:30 a.m.; Lapsit, for children birth to 2 years, on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.; and Play K, where children ages 3 to 5 years old, enjoy kindergarten activities. All are welcome; but, masks are required for the safety of our young readers during program time.

Come on! Join the fun

Young and old ... big and small, the community is invited to gather on Veterans Day - Thursday, Nov. 11 - for a Christmas card making event for veterans and active service personnel. Supplies will be available all day; but, refreshments will be served from 4 to 6 p.m.

Science Nights return on November 10 at 5:30 p.m. with a program about Forensics, DNA and fact-gather-

ing with help from the Orwigsburg Police Department.

Coloring with Chris will be held Thursday, Nov. 18 at 4:15 p.m. Reading with Gypsy will be held the same day from 4 to 5 p.m. (Limited space - so don't forget to sign up.)

Saturday, Nov. 6 will feature Creative Play at 11 a.m. Come build with the Library's giant blocks and an assortment of other building materials.

On Saturday, Nov. 13, learn about the History of the Coal Miner's Cure: Boilo at its Best! at 1 p.m. Flavor samplings, instructions, recipes, and Boilo spice packages will be available for purchase. Get a unique holiday gift - The Boilo+ gift book sets for \$10.

Media Madness discusses the Digital Zombie Escape Room on November 17, beginning at 5 p.m. Crafty adults will enjoy Adults Crafting on November 20 at 1 p.m. and children get involved a week later on November 27, same time.

Book Club, both in person or via Zoom, discusses a different book once per month on the last Monday at 6 p.m. Mahjongg enthusiasts play on the first, third, and fifth Wednesday each month at 6 p.m. Learn this game each Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. Media Madness meets regularly on the fourth Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Programs are added to the Library calendar on a regular basis. Be sure to check the Library's website www.orwigsburglibrary.org or the Library's Facebook page. Maybe best of all, come in to check us out!

Mark your calendars

The Library once again will feature its Holly Trail Night of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 4. This one is our 39th annual showing ... a wonderful family-friendly event to get the Orwigsburg community and beyond into the holiday spirit. Participants will be sent on an outside guided house tour that will have special surprises at ever stop.

This holiday event has a long standing history of beautifully decorated homes, but now with new twists. Get your tickets early because there is a maximum number that will be sold.

In addition, stop in at the Library to view and enter our annual Wreath Raffle and Holly Trail Basket Raffle. Entry tickets are available now through the Holly Trail on Dec. 4.

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Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00

Mayor's Proclamation

Welcome to my favorite part of the year. It usually begins with crisper air and amazing colors in our surrounding woodland. It rarely ends without a good snowstorm. And, in between, we get to enjoy a bunch of great holidays.

Veterans Day, Thanksgiving & More

Veterans Day is always on November 11, originally to commemorate the end of World War I on that date in 1918. We owe our gratitude to those who have put themselves in harm's way to preserve our liberties. Thank our veterans at any opportunity, but especially on the day set aside to do so. A ceremony is conducted annually at the Bicentennial Park on the Square.

Thanksgiving falls on the 25th this year. My most pleasant childhood memories involved this day at my grandparents' home with our two-table extended family. Despite all the odd happenings of the past year and a half, there is still much to be thankful.

Thanksgiving is also the kickoff for the entire flurry of seasonal activities - taking my rifle for a walk in the woods, holiday decorating, the Festival of Lights, our library's Holly Trail, and gatherings of family and friends. What a splendid way to finish the year!

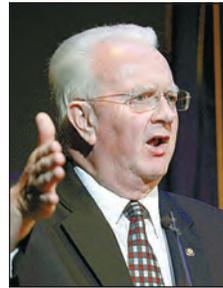
After all that, the only thing to do is to start all over again. The parades, the bowl games, the pork and sauerkraut dinners will all be in the wings to kick off 2022.

- Barry J. Berger, Orwigsburg Mayor

State Rep. Jerry Knowles

Apply for LIHEAP Help

Residents struggling to pay home heating bills can begin applying for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) now. This program runs until April 8, 2022.



**Representative
Jerry Knowles**

The federally funded LIHEAP program helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance cash grants that are sent directly to your fuel/utility provider. The program also includes crisis grants should there be an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel, or termination of utility service.

The income limit for an individual is \$19,320; for a couple, the limit is \$26,130; and for a family of four, it is \$39,750. The grant award amounts vary from \$200 to \$1,000 depending upon income, fuel source, and household size.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online or by contacting your County Assistance Office. You may also stop by one of my offices, located in Tamaqua and Hamburg, or call at 570-668-1240, if you need assistance with completing your LIHEAP application.

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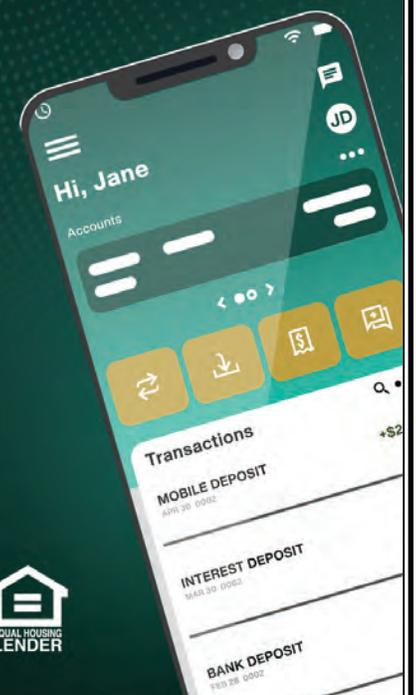
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4/21

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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

St. John's UCC

St. John's United Church of Christ, 232. E. Market Street, welcomes everyone to join in worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. No matter where you are on life's journey, you are always welcome at St. John's. Communion is held the first Sunday of every month.



Pastor Jeff Johnson leads the congregation in worship. Trena Murphy provides musical direction, and many teachers and helpers volunteer with the children of the congregation - kindergarten through 7th grade - each Sunday with meaningful Sunday school classes. New faces are always welcome!

Pastor Jeff's installation as pastor of St. John's will be held on Sunday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. The community is invited.

St. John's choir will present a Christmas cantata during the 10 a.m. worship service on December 12. The Friday Christmas Eve service will be held at 8 p.m.. The public is cordially invited.

The Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry - supported by eight area churches, Orwigsburg Lions Club, Blue Mountain schools and Scouts - is housed at St. John's. Donations presently needed for the upcoming holidays include frozen turkeys, jarred or canned gravy, cranberry sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, peanut

butter and jelly, crackers, toilet paper, and paper towels. All donations are much appreciated. Food is distributed via drive-through on the third Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m.

St. John's will have "elves" in front of the church and across the street to accept donations of tuna, beef stew and canned fruits during the Festival of Lights and the Orwigsburg Library's Holly Trail Night of Lights on Dec. 4. Elves will meet donors at their cars. Free books, compliments of the library, will be given to the children or to grandparents who donate these items.

Children of pantry recipients will be allowed to "shop" for gifts for family members on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Center. Adults will be asked to wait in their cars as this is a "children's shopping time" only. There is no charge for these gifts.

Bible Study is ongoing. Phone Kay Jones at 570-366-1333 for an update.

An upbeat message is posted by Pastor Jeff twice weekly on Facebook. Sunday worship services can also be found on St. John's Facebook or YouTube pages, under St. John's United Church of Christ.

We invite anyone interested in St. John's congregation to come to one of our "Learn About St. John's" sessions held periodically. Learn more and have questions answered. Call the church office at 570-366-2255.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

215 North Warren Street • Orwigsburg
Office: 570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

OFFICE HOURS

Tues. thru Fri. - 9 a.m. to Noon

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturdays - 5:30 p.m.

Sundays - 8 & 10:30 a.m.

Handicap Accessible



Holy Communion is shared on the first Saturday of the month and at every Sunday service.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

DRIVE-UP CHILI & SOUP SALE - Sat., Nov. 13 - 9 a.m. - M&T Lot

IN-PERSON "CHRISTMAS CONCERT" - Sunday, Dec. 19 - 4 p.m.

Featuring St. Paul's Chancel and Bell Choirs

IN-PERSON "CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES" - Fri, Dec. 24 - 5, 9 & 11 p.m.

Candle Lighting & Holy Communion at Each Service

"SOUPER BOWL EVE" CHILI & SOUP SALE - Sat., Feb 12 - 9 a.m.

"On the Square" at M&T Lot

Please check out our Facebook Page and our Website.

Visit us on YouTube to watch our online worship. Or call our Church Office at 570-366-2316 for more information.



WELCOMING all with God's love,
STRENGTHENING individuals for life's journey,
BLESSING our wider community

ZION'S RED CHURCH

1287 Centre Turnpike
Orwigsburg

www.zionsredchurch.com

Caring for Families since 1755!



Join Us for Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, Dec. 4 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Friday, Dec. 24 - 7 p.m.

Candlelight Service w/ Holy Communion

Online worship experiences available

See our article for more details!

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

St. Paul's Lutheran

The congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 215 North Warren Street, welcomes everyone to join our worship, help us to serve our neighbors, and consider becoming part of our community of faith.



We worship together with services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion is shared during worship on the first Saturday of the month and at every Sunday service.

The Men of St. Paul's will host a "drive-by" Chili and Soup Sale on Saturday, Nov. 13 at 9 a.m. "on the square" at the M&T Community Parking Lot. Breads and other baked goods will also be on sale.

St. Paul's will host an in-person Christmas Concert this year featuring its Chancel and Bell Choirs. The concert is free to the public and will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19.

In-person Christmas Eve services will be held at 5, 9, and 11 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 24. Candle lighting and Holy Communion will be shared at each service.

The Men of St. Paul's will host a "Souper Bowl Eve" Chili and Soup Sale on Saturday, Feb. 12 beginning at 9 a.m. "on the square" at the Community Parking Lot.

Due to uncertainties surrounding the spread of COVID-19 in our area and the possibility of inclement weather conditions, please check our Facebook page, website, or call our office for changes and updates to our schedule of events.

If you would like to contact our pastor, the Rev. Michael T. Petresky, or members of our staff, please call us at 570-366-2316. Leave a message if our office is closed when you call.

Visit our Facebook page, website, or YouTube to watch our online videos or for more information about upcoming events and activities. Come and see. Share our work and our worship. Join us as together we follow Christ!

Zion's Red Church

Welcome to Zion's Red Church, the oldest congregation located in the heart of southern Schuylkill County. We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the United Church of Christ at 1287 Centre Turnpike (Route 61.) Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with the Rev. Ken Melber, Jr.

This winter, we prepare once again for the Christmas season. Amidst all of the chaos and questions that seem to fill our days and nights as of late, we are reminded of a night when God came to live among us and bring us God's peace and mercy. As the angels remind the shepherds, so they remind us: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace." May you find much-needed rest and peace in God's love during this holiday season and beyond.

We will be celebrating the height of the season

on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24, with a service of candlelight and Holy Communion at 7 p.m. All are invited to be a part of the celebration at Zion's. For those who do not wish to drive at night or cannot attend an evening service, Pastor Ken will lead a 2 p.m. service at our sister church, Friedens Lutheran Church, New Ringgold.



Our Christmas Bazaar will open again after two years. Set for Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., come browse through gently used holiday decorations and other items. Buy some homemade Christmas cookies and other baked goods. Take a chance on the variety of raffle baskets that we will have displayed. A girl's and boy's bicycle will be among the raffle prizes offered. Homemade hot food and drinks will also be available. We look forward to you visiting with us as we usher in the Christmas season.

Contact the church office at (570) 366-1178 for any information about our Sunday service, Bible study sessions, church rental spaces, or other events. Find us online at zionsredchurch.com or join our Facebook page. Livestreams and other online resources can be found at the website for Friedens Lutheran Church, our sister congregation, at NRLP.ORG. See the right panel for links.

- Continued on page 14

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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

- Continued from Page 13

Faith Church

Faith Church is located at 1168 Centre Turnpike, just outside Orwigsburg on Rt. 61. I'm senior pastor, Doug Cresswell.



A special welcome to all as we enter another beautiful fall season in Northeastern Pennsylvania. It is with great excitement that

we enter this time of year. Faith Church started over 20 years ago and I can honestly tell you "I have never been more excited" about what is happening at Faith.

Earlier this fall, we began a campaign called "What On Earth Am I Here For?" developed by Rick Warren, the author of "The Purpose Driven Life." The program drives purpose and passion into all who attend. Each week through October we built the basis for why God created us. As a pastor, it has been one of the greatest church experiences I have ever had. And it gets better.

In November, we are launching a major effort for everyone to know - not wonder, not speculate, not guess, but to KNOW - your purpose in life. We are announcing "Finding My Purpose With E's. - Engage ... Empower ... Entrust."

This is a specially designed process for Faith Church to grow and develop people's interest in being "who" God created them to be. You see, God already

made you who He wants you to be. Most people do not know what they are here for.

This is an honest question and we have developed a comfortable program with our own inhouse leader Dr. Tiffany Cresswell-Yeager.

Everyone is invited to join us as we work to serve God heading into a great time of Thanksgiving and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Programs for all ages are held every Sunday beginning at 10 a.m.

Though experiencing difficult times - from COVID, to violence, to simply the general feeling of discomfort - know this GOD is still in control. You can find that message of peace and rest in God. God bless you.

New Awakening Church

It has been another challenging year for all of us. But God is always in the business of bringing beauty from ashes. As a part of your community, we are praying that this next year would bring beauty to your life!

We are a young church—in fact, we just had our one-year anniversary! But we are growing! We are so happy to be here in Orwigsburg, and we would honestly love



to meet you. New Awakening began with a vision to create a space where one can encounter God's love, realize His purpose for your life, and delight in who you were created to be. In short, it would be a place of love, truth, and new beginnings. If you are tired; if you are lonely; if you are questioning ... there's a place for you here.

We meet in a gym. Yup, a gym. It's actually pretty awesome. Jesus brought hope to the people by living and ministering among them. We want to do the same. So, when we say that we want to meet you where you're at ... we really mean it. The service begins with contemporary-style music and prayer. The children then make their way to their own exciting church service. Kids' church and nursery are provided every week. The service concludes with a practical and relatable message. Then it's time for coffee (and cookies and cakes and just about everything else!).

We also have different groups during the week that you can join to meet some friends and get better

FAITH CHURCH

loving God - loving people - serving the community

Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell

1168 Centre Turnpike

(next to Ark Rentals)

Orwigsburg, PA 17961

570-366-5131

Online Service

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Weekly

Celebration

Service

Sunday 10 a.m.

www.atfaithchurch.com

NEW AWAKENING CHURCH

*A place of
love, truth, and new beginnings*

SUNDAYS AT 10 AM
AT THE SCHUYLKILL RACQUET CLUB
25 S GREENVIEW ROAD · ORWIGSBURG

www.newawakeningchurch.com

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

connected, including both a men's and a women's fellowship, and even a fellowship for moms and school-aged kids!

Join us Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at the Schuylkill Racquet Club, 25 S Greenview Rd. You can also join us for services online at [facebook.com/newawakeningchurch](https://www.facebook.com/newawakeningchurch) or on YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram. Check us out at www.newawakeningchurch.com for more information.

Need a place to go for Christmas eve? Celebrate with us at the Racquet Club at 6:30 p.m.

Kimmels Church

All are invited to worship at Kimmels Church, 179 Pine Creek Drive just off Kimmels Road on the eastern side of Orwigsburg, this Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season and to be a part of our church family at any of our activities.

On Sunday, Nov. 14 at 3 p.m., all are invited to a very special Flutists Concert entitled "Winds of the Spirit." Admission is free.



Once again, Kimmels Church will be a scheduled stop along the Orwigsburg Library's Holly Trail "Night of Lights Tour" on Saturday evening, Dec. 4. A tour ticket for your vehicle is required and available for purchase at the Library now. The stop at Kimmels is

always a memorable one when taking in the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas. See our amazing display of lights, listen to our carolers, and enjoy the drive-thru cookies handmade with love just for you.

Share, with us, in the beauty of this season. All are invited to attend our Christmas eve service on Friday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday morning worship service is held at 10 a.m. Attend in person or live-stream on Facebook. Additional events and small group studies can be found on our website: www.kimmelschurch.org or call the church office at 570-943-2759.

Salem UMC

This Thanksgiving and Christmas season, Salem United Methodist Church will focus on "making room in the inn" for all of its neighbors. Come and experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of God as we open our church and our hearts to all.

Every Sunday we have a traditional service at 8:45 a.m. and a contemporary service at 10:45 a.m. On select Sunday evenings we have a special movie night at 6 p.m. Children are always welcome in our worship services, and we also have a nursery available on Sunday mornings. Sunday morning services are live-streamed at [Facebook.com/salemchurchorwigsburg](https://www.facebook.com/salemchurchorwigsburg) or on our website at salemum.com. Follow us on Facebook to get updates about special events and Christmas eve services.



St. John's United Church of Christ

232 E. Market St., Orwigsburg • 570-366-2255

Spirit filled worship for contemporary souls

Worship 10 a.m. Every Sunday
Holy Communion - First Sunday

All Are Invited to Pastor Jeff's Installation - Sunday, Nov. 21-3 p.m.

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM
Contact Kay Jones – 570-366-1333

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Eve - 7 p.m.
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve - 8 p.m.

www.StJohnOrwigsburg.org

LIVE ON FACEBOOK
WORSHIP SERVICES EACH SUNDAY



Kimmels Church

179 Pine Creek Drive • Orwigsburg, PA
www.kimmelschurch.org

Join Us!

Winds Of The Spirit
Flutists Concert
November 14 - 3 pm
Free Admission

Night Of Lights
Cookies & Amazing Display of Lights
Drive Thru Stop, December 4 - 5:30 pm to 8 pm

Christmas Eve Service
December 24 - 6:30 pm

Join us on Sunday mornings for our worship service at 10 am
In-Person & Live Stream on FB
Small Group Studies Meet on Wednesdays & Thursdays
In-Person & Virtually
Please call for additional details (570-943-2759)



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Night of Lights
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